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United Nations

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Report on the third session (24-26 July 2013)

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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Report on the third session (24-26 July 2013)

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Note

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Contents

Chapter		Page
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	1
	A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	1
	Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its third session and provisional agenda and dates for the fourth session of the Committee	1
	B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council	2
	3/101. Future trends in geospatial information management	2
	3/102. Global geodetic reference frame	2
	3/103. Development of a global map for sustainable development	3
	3/104. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management	4
	3/105. Legal and policy frameworks, including critical issues related to authoritative data	4
	3/106. Establishment and implementation of standards for the global geospatial information community	5
	3/107. Linking of geospatial information to statistics and other data	5
	3/108. Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information	6
	3/109. Integration of land and marine geospatial information	6
	3/110. Activities on geospatial information within the United Nations system	7
	3/111. Activities related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development	7
	3/112. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information	7
	3/113. Status of mapping in the world	8
	3/114. Report by regional entities and thematic groups	8
II.	Items for endorsement, discussion and decision	10
	A. Future trends in geospatial information management	10
	B. Global geodetic reference frame	10
	C. Development of a global map for sustainable development	11
	D. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management	11
	E. Legal and policy frameworks, including critical issues related to authoritative data	12

F. Establishment and implementation of standards for the global geospatial information community 12
G. Linking of geospatial information to statistics and other data 13
H. Development of shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information 13
I. Critical issues relating to the integration of land and marine geospatial information 14
J. Activities on geospatial information within the United Nations system 14
III. Items for information 15
A. Activities related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 15
B. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information 15
C. Status of mapping in the world 15
D. Reports by regional entities and thematic groups 16
IV. Provisional agenda and dates for the fourth session of the Committee 17
V. Report of the Committee on its third session 18
VI. Organization of the session 19
A. Opening and duration of the session 19
B. Attendance 19
C. Election of officers 19
D. Credentials 19
E. Agenda and organization of work 20
F. Rules of procedure 21
G. Documentation 21

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its third session and provisional agenda and dates for the fourth session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its third session;

(b) Decides that the fourth session of the Committee of Experts shall be held from 4 to 6 August 2014 at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fourth session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Committee of Experts

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Global geodetic reference frame.
4. Determining global fundamental datasets.
5. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management.
6. Global map for sustainable development.
7. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
8. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
9. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.
10. Integration of land and marine geospatial information.
11. Knowledge base for geospatial information management.
12. Coordination of United Nations activities in geospatial information management.
13. Reports by regional entities and thematic groups.
14. Provisional agenda and dates for the fifth session of the Committee.
15. Report of the Committee on its fourth session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee are brought to the attention of the Council:

3/101
Future trends in geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the final report prepared by the working group on future trends in geospatial information management,* acknowledged the leadership role played by the Ordnance Survey, and expressed its appreciation to the working group and the Ordnance Survey for their excellent work in conducting wide consultations and for the high quality and readability of the report;

(b) Endorsed the first release of the report entitled "Future trends in geospatial information management: the 5- to 10-year vision",* and noted that the report is meant to be a "living document" that will be revised from time to time to reflect changes in technology and the environment;

(c) Took note of the various suggestions made by the members of the Committee regarding the translation, publication and circulation of the report, and welcomed the support of Member States to assist in this process;

(d) Suggested that a review of the report be undertaken during the period leading up to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2016, in order to address the future work programme of the Committee.

3/102
Global geodetic reference frame

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the working group on the geodetic reference frame for sustainable development of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific,* in collaboration with the International Association of Geodesy, and commended the working group and the International Association on their efforts to produce the report within a short period of time;

(b) Expressed its appreciation to the members of the Committee for their response to the global geodetic questionnaire, completed by over 100 Member States, and encouraged those Member States that had not yet participated to provide their input;

(c) Recognized the growing demand for positioning services that are more precise and the economic importance of a global geodetic reference frame; the need to improve global cooperation within geodesy, including to openly share data in order to contribute to regional and global reference frames, building on regional networks; and the need for appropriate commitment to

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

national contributions aimed at improving national geodetic infrastructure as a means to enhance the global geodetic reference framework;

(d) Agreed that actions should be taken to facilitate the submission of a resolution to be tabled at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in order to seek support and commitment at the highest level, and requested the Secretariat to establish a working group, with equitable regional representation, to develop the conceptual note and draft text of the resolution through an open and inclusive process;

(e) Expressed its appreciation to those Member States and organizations that had offered to contribute to the working group.

3/103
Development of a global map for sustainable development

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the working group for a global map for sustainable development,* and expressed its appreciation for the efforts undertaken by working group in making progress within a short period of time;

(b) In principle, endorsed the terms of reference and the draft road map of the working group, subject to refinement in accordance with comments provided by Member States, as a means to clarify and communicate the scope and goals of the working group;

(c) Acknowledged the contributions of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping over the past two decades to develop global mapping so as to inform the sustainable development agenda and the current efforts of the International Steering Committee to provide technical support to the working group, and advised that a closer working relationship should be developed between the working group and the International Steering Committee, with the latter playing a central operating role;

(d) Requested the working group to report back to the Committee at its next session, having considered the following additional aspects in the development of a global map for sustainable development:

(i) Specifying a narrower focus that builds on existing standards and regional initiatives;

(ii) Providing a clear understanding of the needs and requirements of the sustainable development user community;

(iii) Collaborating with the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals;

(e) Urged Member States to participate in and contribute to the working group in its activities.

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

3/104
Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report on trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management,* expressed its appreciation to countries that had responded to the questionnaire, and encouraged Member States that had not completed the questionnaire to do so in order to facilitate a more comprehensive assessment;

(b) Acknowledged that there is an urgent need to discuss the issues related to national institutional arrangements and to identify best practices in these arrangements for geospatial information management, taking into account the close linkage with legal and policy and statistical institutional arrangements, for national geospatial information management, while encouraging some level of uniformity and standardization;

(c) Welcomed the offer of a number of countries to work together in a small working group with the Secretariat in order to continue this exercise, building upon the initial work and the work undertaken in the regions, and to report the findings to the Committee at its next session.

3/105
Legal and policy frameworks, including critical issues related to authoritative data

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report on legal and policy frameworks, including critical issues related to authoritative data,* and the valuable contribution by the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy;

(b) Acknowledged, as evidenced by the initial survey responses from Member States, that there are significant legal and policy challenges emerging for geospatial information, including issues related to the licensing, sharing, pricing, privacy, quality, liability, authority and security of data, and open data;

(c) Noted that legal and policy frameworks should be designed to promote, facilitate and enable the use and dissemination of geospatial information and that any further work in this area needs to build on existing efforts, especially at the regional level;

(d) Acknowledged that there is a need to engage with lawmakers, policymakers and lawyers on geospatial technology requirements, data, including open data, applications and processes, as well as the value of geospatial information management, and in this context specifically requested the Secretariat to reach out to the International Bar Association regarding the Association's current work on a draft convention on geoinformation;

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

(e) Asked the Secretariat to continue the work it was carrying out with the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy and interested Member States, building on the work of the regional entities and other relevant forums, such as the Group on Earth Observations.

3/106
Establishment and implementation of standards for the global geospatial information community

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report of and the work done by the International Organization for Standardization 211 (ISO/TC 211), the Open Geospatial Consortium and the International Hydrographic Organization on the establishment and implementation of standards for the global geospatial information community,* and noted the close degree of cooperation between these organizations;

(b) Stressed the importance of standards for effective data-sharing and the need for the full involvement of Member States in the development and maintenance of standards;

(c) Emphasized the importance of implementing and adopting standards within national legal and policy frameworks, and noted the need for developing countries to receive support from the standardization bodies in these efforts;

(d) Requested the Secretariat to continue its work with the standardization bodies and Member States and to report back to the Committee in the future.

3/107
Linking of geospatial information to statistics and other data

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report on the linking of geospatial information to statistics and other data,* and the excellent work done by the Australian Bureau of Statistics;

(b) Acknowledged the critical importance of integrating geospatial information with statistics and socioeconomic data and the development of a geospatial-statistical framework, especially in the context of the ongoing debate on the post-2015 development agenda;

(c) Supported the decision by the Statistical Commission to create an expert group on the integration of geospatial information and statistical information, comprising members of both the statistical and geospatial communities;

(d) Supported holding an international conference on the topic, and urged the expert group to look into issues such as institutional arrangements and standards that would facilitate improved data integration and, in particular,

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

the unique opportunity offered by the preparations of the forthcoming 2020 round of censuses;

(e) Recognized the role of so-called "linked data" as an effective methodology for dynamically linking datasets, and recommended that the potential of such technology be considered by the expert group;

(f) Encouraged national geospatial information authorities to reach out to their national statistical office counterparts in order to actively engage in a dialogue on improved integration of statistical and geospatial information at the national level;

(g) Requested the expert group to report back to the Committee in 2014.

3/108
Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information

The Committee of Experts:

Took note of the report on the development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information,* and invited the Secretariat to work with a small group of Member States, including members within the statistical community, on a preliminary proposal for a set of shared principles and to report back to the Committee.

3/109
Integration of land and marine geospatial information

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report on integrating land and marine geospatial information,* and expressed its appreciation to the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Federation of Surveyors for contributing background papers on the subject;

(b) Stressed the critical importance of improved integration of land and marine geospatial information in order to facilitate planning and management, especially of coastal areas and waters in a seamless, interoperable and holistic way, and encouraged relevant national institutions to work together on these issues;

(c) Encouraged Member States, in cooperation with the International Hydrographic Organization, the International Federation of Surveyors and other relevant national and international actors active in this field, to contribute to developing standardized and coordinated approaches to the integration of land and marine geospatial information, including identifying, sharing and promoting the use of best practices, including the development of pilot projects;

(d) Noted the need to provide assistance to developing countries where relevant information is lacking.

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

3/110
Activities on geospatial information within the United Nations system

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Expressed its appreciation to the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group for its report on activities related to geospatial information within the United Nations system;*

(b) Urged international organizations and agencies, within and outside the United Nations system that collect geospatial data from countries to make the data available in a transparent and coordinated manner, while respecting the need to keep the efforts technical in nature, so as to not raise political concerns;

(c) Stressed the need for better coordination and clarification of the roles and responsibilities of geospatial information management activities, both within and outside the United Nations system, and requested the Secretariat and the Working Group to work together and report back to the Committee.

3/111
Activities related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The Committee of Experts:

Took note of the report prepared by the Secretariat on activities related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development* held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and requested the Secretariat to continue to keep the Committee informed about the efforts and initiatives of the United Nations system related to sustainable development.

3/112
Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Took note of the report prepared by the Secretariat on the initiative to design and develop a knowledge base for geospatial information* and to disseminate it through a web-based portal;

(b) Invited the Member States to provide feedback to the Secretariat on the structure of the knowledge base portal prototype;

(c) Requested the Secretariat to make the beta version of the knowledge base portal operational after the meeting of the Committee of Experts.

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

3/113
Status of mapping in the world

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Took note of the report of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing on the status of mapping in the world,* expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Society in carrying out the survey-based study on profiling the status of terrestrial mapping in the world, also expressed its appreciation to the Member States that had submitted completed the questionnaire, and encouraged countries that had not yet done so to participate by submitting their country profiles;

(b) Requested the Secretariat to facilitate the mechanisms for the periodic update of the status of mapping in the world and to possibly integrate it with other knowledge-based surveys, in order to monitor the progress of Member States in geospatial information management.

3/114
Reports by regional entities and thematic groups

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Took note of the reports by regional entities and thematic groups on their initiatives,* and expressed its appreciation for their valuable contributions;

(b) Acknowledged that effective forms of cooperation can take place at the regional level, and encouraged the regional entities to continue to work in close cooperation with the Secretariat in order to allow Member States to continue to have a regional and global perspective;

(c) Welcomed the creation of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific, and invited the Regional Committee to regularly report to the Committee of Experts;

(d) Noted with satisfaction the progress being made towards establishing a regional committee on geospatial information management for Europe, and invited European representatives to report back to the Committee at its next session;

(e) Recalled the Second High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management held in Doha, Qatar, from 4 to 6 February 2013, and the meeting held on the sidelines of the Forum by the Group of Arab States, at which it was agreed that a regional mechanism for coordination in geospatial information management would be created, commended the action taken at the meeting towards the establishment of the mechanism under the auspices of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and invited the Group to report back to the Committee at the next session of the Committee;

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

(f) Invited other regional entities to consider creating similar regional structures on geospatial information management, and welcomed the initiative of the current regional entity of the Americas, the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas,) to consider aligning itself with the United Nations global geospatial information management structure;

(g) Recognized the contributions of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies and other international contributors to advancing the initiatives being carried out by the Committee.

Chapter II
Items for endorsement, discussion and decision

A. Future trends in geospatial information management

3. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda, Future trends in geospatial information management, at its 1st meeting, held on 24 July 2013. It had before it the report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, prepared in collaboration with the working group on future trends in geospatial information management, entitled "Future trends in geospatial information management: the 5- to 10-year vision".* The Director of the Statistics Division made introductory statements.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Belgium, Canada, Italy, Mexico, Japan, the United States of America and France.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

6. At its 5th meeting, held on 26 July 2013, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/101).

B. Global geodetic reference frame

7. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda, Global geodetic reference frame, at its 1st meeting, held on 24 July 2013. It had before it the report of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific, prepared in collaboration with the International Association of Geodesy, on the global geodetic reference frame.* The Directors of the Statistics Division and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific made introductory statements.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Norway, France, New Zealand, Australia, the Republic of Korea, Italy, Nigeria, Jamaica, Sweden, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, Chile, India, Belize, Canada, Mexico, the United States, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, China, the United Republic of Tanzania, Mongolia, Fiji, Colombia, Poland and Costa Rica, and by the observers for the International Association of Geodesy and the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

10. At its 5th meeting, held on 26 July 2013, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/102).

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C. Development of a global map for sustainable development

11. The Committee considered item 6 of its agenda, Development of a global map for sustainable development, at its 1st meeting, held on 24 July 2013. It had before it the report of the working group tasked with developing a global map for sustainable development.* The Director of the Statistics Division and the chair of the working group made introductory statements.

12. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, Australia, Ethiopia, Norway, Spain, Pakistan, Italy, Belize, El Salvador, Mexico, Oman, Japan and Jamaica, and by the observers for the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping, Esri, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

14. At its 5th meeting, held on 26 July 2013, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/103).

D. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

15. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda, Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management, at its 2nd meeting, held on 25 July 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management.* The Director of the Statistics Division and the Secretariat made introductory statements.

16. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, the Republic of Korea, Jamaica, Mexico, Spain, Bangladesh, South Africa, Japan, Fiji, Israel, Mongolia, Nigeria, Colombia, France, Pakistan and Tuvalu, and by the observer for the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

17. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

18. At its 5th meeting, held on 26 July 2013, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/104).

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

E. Legal and policy frameworks, including critical issues related to authoritative data

19. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda, Legal and policy frameworks, including critical issues related to authoritative data, at its 2nd meeting, held on 25 July 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretariat, prepared in collaboration with the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, on legal and policy frameworks, including critical issues related to authoritative data.* The Director of the Statistics Division and the observer for the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy made introductory statements.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Belgium, Italy, Australia, the United Kingdom, Finland, the Netherlands, France, Sweden, Jamaica, the United States and Nigeria and by the observers for EuroGeographics and the Joint Board of the Geospatial Information Societies.

21. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

22. At its 5th meeting, held on 26 July 2013, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/105).

F. Establishment and implementation of standards for the global geospatial information community

23. The Committee considered item 8 of its agenda, Establishment and implementation of standards for the global geospatial information community, at its 2nd meeting, held on 25 July 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretariat, prepared in collaboration with the International Organization for Standardization Technical Committee 211 (ISO/TC 211), the Open Geospatial Consortium and the International Hydrographic Organization, on establishing and implementing standards for the global geospatial information community.* The Director of the Statistics Division and the observer for the Technical Committee made introductory statements.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Germany, the United Kingdom, Ethiopia, Belize, Jamaica, Australia, Norway and Mexico, and by the observers for the International Hydrographic Organization and the Open Geospatial Consortium.

25. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

26. At its 5th meeting, held on 26 July 2013, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/106).

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

G. Linking of geospatial information to statistics and other data

27. The Committee considered item 9 of its agenda, Linking of geospatial information to statistics and other data, at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, held on 25 July 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on the linking of geospatial information to statistics and other data.* The Director of the Statistics Division and the representative of Australia made introductory statements.

28. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Egypt, South Africa, Australia, the State of Palestine, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Poland, Azerbaijan, Mexico, Bangladesh, Belgium, Nigeria, Belize, Germany, the United States, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Qatar, Algeria, Sweden and China, and by the observers for the Statistical Office of the European Commission and the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping.

29. Also at the same meetings, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

30. At its 5th meeting, held on 26 July 2013, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/107).

H. Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information

31. The Committee considered item 11 of its agenda, Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information, at its 3rd meeting, held on 25 July 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on developing a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information.* The Director of the Statistics Division and the Secretariat made introductory statements.

32. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, France, New Zealand, Tuvalu, Jamaica, Israel and Fiji, and by the observers for the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping and the International Federation of Surveyors.

33. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

34. At its 5th meeting, held on 26 July 2013, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/108).

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

I. Critical issues relating to the integration of land and marine geospatial information

35. The Committee considered item 10 of its agenda, Critical issues relating to the integration of land and marine geospatial information, at its 3rd meeting, held on 25 July 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretariat, prepared in collaboration with the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Federation of Surveys on critical issues relating to the integration of land and marine geospatial information.* The Director of the Statistics Division and the observer for the International Hydrographic Organization made introductory statements.

36. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Norway, Denmark, Japan, Belize, Belgium, Namibia, Mexico, France, Spain, Algeria, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Fiji, Tuvalu, Iraq, Nigeria, Peru, Chile, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Costa Rica, and by the observer for the International Federation of Surveyors.

37. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

38. At its 5th meeting, held on 26 July 2013, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/109).

J. Activities on geospatial information within the United Nations system

39. The Committee considered item 12 of its agenda, Activities on geospatial information within the United Nations system, at its 4th meeting, held on 26 July 2013. It had before it the report of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group on activities on geospatial information within the United Nations system.* The Director of the Statistics Division and the representative of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs made introductory statements.

40. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia and South Africa, and by the observer for the Group on Earth Observations.

41. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee

42. At its 5th meeting, held on 26 July 2013, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/110).

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

Chapter III
Items for information

A. Activities related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Action taken by the Committee

43. The Committee considered item 13 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 25 July 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on activities related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development).* Introductory statements were made by the Director of the Statistics Division and by the Secretariat.

44. At the same meeting, the Committee took note of the report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/111).

B. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information

Action taken by the Committee

45. The Committee considered item 14 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 25 July 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on developing a knowledge base for geospatial information.* Introductory statements were made by the Director of the Statistics Division and by the Secretariat.

46. At the same meeting, the Committee took note of the report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/112).

C. Status of mapping in the world

Action taken by the Committee

47. The Committee considered item 15 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 26 July 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretariat, prepared in collaboration with the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, on the status of mapping in the world (E/C.20/2013/15/Add.1).* Introductory statements were made by the Director of the Statistics Division and by the observer for the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

48. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Belize and Denmark, and by the observers for the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, the Group on Earth Observations, the International Hydrographic Organization and the Open Geospatial Consortium.

49. At the same meeting, the Committee took note of the report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/113).

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

D. Reports by regional entities and thematic groups

Action taken by the Committee

50. The Committee considered item 16 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 26 July 2013. It had before it the report of the Secretariat prepared in collaboration with regional entities and thematic groups.* Introductory statements were made by the Director of the Statistics Division; the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the Group of Arab States; the representative of China, on behalf of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; the representative of Mexico, on behalf of the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas; the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology of the Economic Commission for Africa; and the observers for the European Commission, EuroGeographics and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies.

51. At the same meeting, the Committee took note of the report (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 3/114).

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

Chapter IV
Provisional agenda and dates for the fourth session of the Committee

52. The Committee considered item 17 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 26 July 2013. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Committee.*

53. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Jamaica, the United States, Germany, Japan, Australia, France, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Belize, China, Norway, Lithuania, Mexico, Chile, Canada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Nigeria and Bahrain, and by the observers for the European Commission, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, the International Hydrographic Organization, the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping, the International Association of Geodesy and the Open Geospatial Consortium.

Action taken by the Committee

54. At its 4th meeting, held on 26 July 2013, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its fourth session and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Committee also decided to recommend it to the Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

55. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to recommend to the Council that its fourth session be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 4 to 6 August 2014 (see chap. I, sect. A).

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

Chapter V
Report of the Committee on its third session

56. The Committee considered item 18 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 26 July 2013. It had before it the draft report contained in an informal paper.

Action taken by the Committee

57. At its 5th meeting, held on 26 July 2013, the Committee adopted the draft report, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with finalizing it, with the support of the Secretariat.

Chapter VI
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

58. The Committee held its third session from 24 to 26 July 2013 at the Corn Exchange in Cambridge, United Kingdom. The Co-Chair of the Committee, Vanessa Lawrence (United Kingdom), opened the session.

B. Attendance

59. The session was attended by 238 participants, including 173 representatives from 66 Member States and one Non-Member State. Also present were 65 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The list of participants is contained in available from the website of the Committee at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

C. Election of officers

60. At its 1st meeting, held on 24 July 2013, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Co-Chairs:
Vanessa Lawrence (United Kingdom)
Eduardo Sojo Garza-Aldape (Mexico)

Rapporteur:
Derek Clarke (South Africa)

D. Credentials

61. At its first meeting, held on 24 July 2013, the Committee invited the following organizations, which do not have consultative status with a relevant United Nations body, to participate as observers at its third session: Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association, International Association of Geodesy, Open Geospatial Consortium, Group on Earth Observations, EuroGeographics, European Umbrella Organization for Geographic Information, European Environment Agency, Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, DigitalGlobe, Esri, Geospatial Media and Communications, Kokusai Kogyo, Oracle Corporation, Pasco Corporation, 1 Spatial, Trimble, British Petroleum, Beijing Geo-Vision Information Technology, Beijing Geoway, KQ Geo Technologies, Leador Spatial Information Technology, Shanghai Huace Navigation Technology, South Surveying and Mapping Instrument, Tianditu, SNGL, Supreme and Company, Integraph Corporation, Coordinates, Nigeria-Togo Association, Society for Development and Community Empowerment and Association for Geographic Information.

E. Agenda and organization of work

62. At its first meeting, on 24 July 2013, the Committee adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/C.20/2013/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Future trends in geospatial information management.
4. Global geodetic reference frame.
5. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management.
6. Development of a global map for sustainable development.
7. Legal and policy frameworks, including critical issues related to authoritative data.
8. Establishment and implementation of standards for the global geospatial information community.
9. Linking of geospatial information to statistics and other data.
10. Critical issues relating to the integration of land and marine geospatial information.
11. Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information.
12. Activities on geospatial information within the United Nations system.
13. Activities related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.
14. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information.
15. Status of mapping in the world.
16. Reports by regional entities and thematic groups.
17. Provisional agenda and dates for the fourth session of the Committee.
18. Report of the Committee on its third session.

63. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the organization of the work of the session.*

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

F. Rules of procedure

64. At its first meeting, held on 24 July 2013, the Committee of Experts adopted its rules of procedure.*

G. Documentation

65. The documents before the Committee at its third session are available from the website of the Statistics Division at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

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* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

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